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25X1CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER23 December 1981
Information as of 0730SITUATION REPORT: POLAND

We have no information overnight to update the strike situation. The party is concerned that continuing scarcity of consumer goods is denying the military council the public support it is so desperately seeking. The party Central Committee reported to local party organizations yesterday that "many members" believe the martial law regime would have enjoyed "full support" if it had improved consumer supplies. The regime has set up a special network to distribute aid from Poland's Communist allies. Provincial military leaders apparently will oversee distribution, and priority will be given to children; the sick, disabled and homeless; and industrial workers and their families. 25X1

More reports are circulating in the West European press that some internees are being held in outdoor camps and are suffering considerably, but we cannot confirm them. West German television claimed yesterday that film director Andrzej Wajda has been detained after refusing to sign the obligatory loyalty oath. Wajda directed "Man of Iron", an award-winning film about the birth of Solidarity. Wajda's detention, if true, could mobilize West European intellectuals and could thereby put new pressure on West European governments. 25X1

The regime is screening journalists closely in order to maintain its control over the press. Newspapers not currently being distributed may begin to reappear as early as next Monday. The Embassy has learned that all newspaper people are undergoing a "verification" process in which journalists are interrogated by a government board for as long as 70 minutes. At one paper, the board was compromised of two men from the military, one from the Communist party, and one from the allied Democratic party. Journalists are then classified as "safe" (allowed to write), "not entirely safe," (permitted to correct copy), or "unsafe" (and dismissed). 25X1

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[redacted]

The Embassy reports that the clandestine flying universities, which proliferated in the last years of the Gierek regime, are beginning to spring up again. Faculty members of Warsaw University are holding informal "consultations" in private apartments on a range of subjects. If the universities are closed down indefinitely, the practice could proliferate and give impetus to passive resistance in other segments of the society. The regime's more stringent rules governing the operation of schools and universities--released yesterday to lower level party organizations--may further spur the creation of flying universities. The rules call for increased actions to prevent "illegal behavior," tighter controls on copying equipment, and allows (but does not obligate) directors to change teaching plans. [redacted]

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The British press reports that the British Broadcasting Corporation is increasing its broadcasts to Poland by five hours a week to a weekly total of 26 hours. The Polish party reports that the populace is following Western radio broadcasts "with great interest" and laments that their "uncritical acceptance" is having a "negative impact" on the public mood. Several provincial party leaders have proposed increased jamming. [redacted]

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Pravda today ran a report from Warsaw again stressing that the situation in Poland was returning to normal. The article highlighted the party's role and cautioned "where the party is passive, a vacuum develops which the enemy immediately fills." Moscow may be reminding Jaruzelski that it is sensitive to the military pushing the party into the shadows. Soviet ideologists, like Suslov, are probably not pleased at the military and nationalist cast of the current martial law regime. [redacted]

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On 13 December, the day that Jaruzelski's declaration of martial law was announced in the USSR, the KGB and police broke up a demonstration at Moscow State University, arresting 60 students and dispersing an equal number. In 1968, students and intellectuals did protest the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The event was probably not a protest over events in Poland--most Russians have been largely unsympathetic to Solidarity and more concerned about bread and butter issues at home. But disturbances of this sort probably fortify the Politburo's fear that Solidarity's successful challenge of the Polish regime could encourage unrest among the Soviet public. [redacted]

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Soviet military forces in and around Poland continue to show no signs of unusual movements.

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